

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/20/2015
Time: 02:00 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0181, SD1 RELATING TO VETERANS.

Purpose of Bill: Allows the department of education to continue, until June 30, 2020, awarding high school diplomas to qualified veterans who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory induction into active service in the armed services of the United States or any person whose high school education was interrupted due to wartime practices such as internment during World War II. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii Department of Education supports the intent of S.B. 0181, S.D.1. This bill will allow the Department to continue the Kupono Diploma Program, which awards an honorary public high school diploma to:

- 1) military veterans of World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars, who were unable to complete their public high school education due to compulsory service in the United States Armed Forces, and
- 2) individuals whose schooling was interrupted due to wartime practices (such as camp internment).

Since 2008, the Department has awarded 24 honorary high school diplomas--23 to military veterans (one posthumously), and most recently, our first honoree that had been transferred from Hawaii in 1942 with her family to internment camps located in Arkansas and California.

Since the program's inception, there have been minimum administrative costs, such as printing and mileage. The Kupono Diploma is managed by the Department's Military Liaison Program that is funded through federal funding. Therefore, additional general funds are not requested from the Legislature at this time.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 181 SD1, RELATING TO VETERANS
PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

March 20, 2015

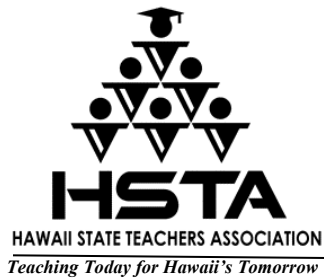
Chair Takumi, Vice-Chair Ohno and Members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 181 SD1. Recommend to insert the repealed language of Act 133, SLH 2012, Section 38 in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

This bill allows the Department of Education to continue awarding veteran's high school diplomas to qualified veterans who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory induction into active service in the armed services of the United States until June 30, 2020.

For example, this measure would help individuals who received draft notices during the Vietnam Conflict and had to curtail their formal schooling to support our National interest and efforts abroad. With recognition and commemoration events forthcoming with the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, there may be citizens who were unaware of this special bill that was enacted several years ago to award them a veteran's high school diploma on behalf of a grateful Nation and State.

Thank you for your support of Veterans and their families and for this opportunity to offer my comments.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION
AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Wil Okabe
President
Joan Kamila Lewis
Vice President
Colleen Pasco
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015

RE: S.B. 181, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO VETERANS

PERSON TESTIFYING: JOAN LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chairs Roy Takumi, Isaac Choy and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to **support S.B. 181, S.D. 1**, relating to veterans.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) supports the awarding of high school diplomas by the Hawai'i Department of Education to qualified veterans who did not receive a high school diploma as a result of compulsory induction into active service in the armed services.

Honorably discharged veterans who were unable to complete their high school education because of service in the armed forces should be granted an honorary diploma. Their service to our country certainly warrants such action.

HSTA **supports S.B. 181, S.D. 1**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB181

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EDN on Mar 20, 2015 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kendra Ozaki	Individual	Support	No